

ANNOUNCEMENT!

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ARGUMENTS PRESENTED AND DISBARMENT CASES CLOSE

Disbarment proceedings against George A. Davis terminated in the Supreme Court yesterday afternoon and the Court adjourned until Tuesday, at 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon. Decisions are now awaited in four matters of information against attorneys, the cases of A. S. Humphreys, F. E. Thompson, J. A. Magoon and G. A. Davis having been submitted.

Important Point Lacking.

In the Davis matter the closing arguments were presented yesterday afternoon. The Attorney General maintained that the evidence supported all the allegations in the information with the exception, perhaps, of that charging respondent with procuring himself as attorney for Maria S. Davis.

This allegation was as follows: "That on September 2, 1922, Davis procured himself to be retained as attorney for one Maria S. Davis and instigated and advised her to bring proceedings before a Judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, at chambers, against her brother, John K. Sumner, wherein and whereby she asked that Sumner be declared non compos mentis and placed under guardianship."

That thereafter the parties agreed to compromise on Sumner's paying \$10,000 to Maria Davis, and Maria Davis, through her son, H. W. Davis, notified Geo. A. Davis, her attorney, of her intention to discontinue; that Davis, though claiming to act as her attorney, refused to settle and discontinue the action unless he was paid \$5,000 and threatened to prevent the settlement unless the said money was paid to him, and complainant charges that the said actions of Geo. A. Davis were grossly improper, and that said Geo. A. Davis by so doing was guilty of malpractice and infidelity to his client."

Mr. Andrews confined his argument for the most part to the issues of the case, contending that sufficient proof of the allegations, with the exception above noted, had been established.

Davis' Contentions.

Mr. Davis, in his argument, stood firmly on the contention that he had received but fair remuneration for his services, that his labors had been great, that everything was above board and that the records, the power of attorney, the retaining note, the signatures torn from Wyllie Davis' trust deed, and other documents all were eloquent proofs of his integrity and honorable action in the matter. His numerous references to the Attorney General were not complimentary.

When Court resumed at 2 p. m., the respondent called Judge Humphreys in connection with a statement made by Magoon in the morning.

Humphreys said he had been present when Magoon testified and heard a statement concerning the discussion of fees in the Circuit Court.

Andrews objected to further questioning as being new evidence and the Court disallowed the next interrogation.

Would Hear Andrews.

Davis said he wanted to submit the defense without argument. Andrews did not care to argue if the respondent was not going to argue. The Chief Justice stated that the Court would like to hear the Attorney General.

Beginning with the conduct of Mr. Davis as attorney for Maria S. Davis, the Attorney General maintained that the showing made by the respondent himself made up even stronger reasons for disbarment than the charges in the information.

Andrews read from respondent's evidence to show that Davis had brought insanity proceedings against Sumner to compel him to pay Maria S. Davis \$10,000, and that by this he did obtain \$15,000 for Maria Davis and her attorneys.

"Davis deliberately brought an action," said Andrews, "to restrain Sumner's liberty of action and prevent the distribution of his property."

"The respondent, in negotiating with Dillingham for money in consideration of which he would discontinue proceedings he had joined in bringing, acted in a manner unworthy of any reputable attorney. Such conduct should be sufficient to disbar him."

Didn't Understand.

"The promise of the respondent to get Sumner's \$45,025 out of the bank for him was the lodestone that induced the old man to sign the power of attorney. Both Sumner and his nephew

swore that they did not understand the nature of the document."

"It was absolutely undeniable that the sole motive of Mr. Davis in working for the Davises was to get into the Robert-Summer case. Under cover of a promise to get the money out of the bank he induced that old man to sign a contract that he could hold over his head later, when the Robert-Summer case should be settled, as a contract for his fee in that case. Wyllie Davis testified that Geo. A. Davis came to his mother and himself instead of their going to him."

"Would any reputable lawyer thus butt into a case where he was not asked? The proverbial billy goat was put to shame by George A. Davis in the manner of his butting into the Robert-Summer case."

"The respondent claimed he was working for John K. Sumner's interests in the insanity case, trying to place Sumner under restraint for insanity and to stop the whole transaction in the land sale matter. Yet he stands confessed of having bargained for a discontinuance of the entire proceedings for a consideration of \$15,000 to Maria S. Davis. He actually joined the opposition and sold out his client."

"With regard to the engagement in the power of attorney that Davis should perform services in the future for John K. Sumner, this is entirely beside the issue in this case."

"Although it has not been proved that Mr. Davis procured himself to be attorney for Maria Davis, it has been clearly proved that Mr. Davis did procure himself to be attorney for John K. Sumner in the Robert case."

George A. Davis, addressing an inquiry to the Court and receiving the answer that the Court would like to hear his argument, proceeded, speaking for nearly an hour, impressing all who heard his words with the forceful manner of his argument, the power of his rounded eloquence, the emphasis of his assertions and the bitterness of his allusions.

Forces Behind Andrews.

"Who are the unseen forces back of the Attorney General who, all through this case, has brought everything in his power to bear against my good standing and reputation for honesty, attempting this way and that way to pull me down, to rob me of my honor, to prove me guilty of fraud and deceit; throwing mud at me, and more mud, leaving no stone unturned, no means untried to shame me in the eyes of the community and the world."

"But nothing that this man—he called me 'this man Davis'—nothing that this man Andrews can do, nothing that he can say against me, will ever do me harm. Who, knowing Andrews, would believe him as against me?"

"Without egotism I can say that there is no need of comparing Geo. A. Davis with Lorrin Andrews."

Respondent spoke of the work he had done in the Nobrega case. This had been part of the late Paul Neumann's business, half of the fees of which Davis had turned over to the widow. After two years work he had received \$80, that day, the only money he had ever received in the case.

Wyllie Davis' Testimony.

"The name of Geo. A. Davis has been bandied over the country in political newspapers because he does not suit them. How would Andrews like it one day when he is succeeded—as he will be succeeded—he is attacked on such evidence as he now produces against me? He tried to prove his case by such a man as R. W. Davis, who contradicted the testimony of Burnette, the prosecution's own witness."

"Sumner will soon appear before a Judge whose decisions are impartial and from whose judgment there is no appeal."

"That suit against the O. R. & L. Co. was begun in good faith. All of the parties signed the deed, including personal friends of the Attorney General. What did Geo. A. Davis do? Secured a release to prevent further interference with that old man's money. Yet they come in and say the suit could have been discontinued without Geo. A. Davis. That cunning and diabolical idea originated in the brain of Lorrin Andrews."

"After I had obtained \$10,000 and a release from Maria S. Davis I moved to have my name stricken from the record as her attorney, as her inter-

ests might clash with those of Sumner. If it were not for a political accident that brought a misfortune on the Territory to last some time, I would not be sued for disbarment this day."

"I got my \$2000 before Judge De Bolt and remitted \$1000 on the contract. Magoon got his \$4000 without a contract."

Didn't Want Quarrel.

"When I urged Sumner at the bank to make a time deposit of \$40,000, I did not quarrel about it. I didn't wish to quarrel with everybody. I had quarreled with Wyllie Davis about the trust deed. I was not going to follow Sumner up into Andrews' office, or anywhere he might go and be robbed of the rest of his money. Sumner is a fool. He is always making a deed or a mortgage. He gave away property to Ah Lo. He transferred his property to the Wilcoxes. Yet because I landed Sumner in the First National Bank with \$46,000 I must be disbarred."

"If Andrews was sincere he would have brought proceedings against his own deputy who got part of that \$5999 from Maria Davis."

"The whole proceedings is a political scheme to injure me in the eyes of the Governor. The arrow will not reach its mark."

"I'm not afraid of Andrews outside this court—if I see him first!"

"There is no need of briefing in this case. The evidence is as plain as the light of day, although the Attorney General, bound to down me and feeling the case sinking under him, has instigated falsehoods against me."

Passing Meteor.

"This little gentleman, Mr. Attorney General Lorrin Andrews, is like a swiftly passing meteor, just a flash and it is gone, leaving no trace behind it. Clothed with a little brief authority he should be careful to commit justice while he is in office."

"I am what I am, the character of the man, Geo. A. Davis, needs no eulogium. I have the confidence of the Governor."

"I may at times have been too hateful and too malicious, but none can assail my honesty and I'm not afraid of comparison with the little gentleman who hid in a cabinet and popped out with his pistol."

"Judge De Bolt was on the stand—a smooth, deliberate, careful, hazy man—weighing every word; slow to praise."

"Today the prosecution, seeking by every means to ruin me, shifted their ground, taking everything off the shoulders of Magoon and putting it all on my back to carry. They use Magoon against me. I leave Magoon to be covered with the mantle of charity by the Court."

"Et tu Brute! I may be as bad as they would have you believe, but I never made out that trust deed to Wyllie Davis."

Listened at Keyhole.

"There is not a lawyer within a radius of half a mile who has not had his whack at old Sumner—the Janydice of Hawaii—for drawing a deed, or a mortgage—for getting him into a scrape or out of trouble—we have all had a stab at it, and I—I am the last. I am here to answer charges brought by the Attorney General, Mr. Andrews, the man who listened at a key-hole to a private conversation and sent a report of it to Washington (referring to an affidavit in connection with Judge Humphreys)."

"This Honorable Court may disbar me, but I will never feel any consciousness of sin."

The Attorney General replied briefly, saying the allegations were clearly proven. He refrained from answering respondent's personal attacks. He submitted that respondent was guilty as charged.

WOMEN SWINDLED

New York, July 25.—Hundreds of credulous women in this city and throughout the country have been taken in by the ingenious swindle launched on a gigantic scale and just run to cover in Detroit. Each victim was mulcted to the extent of from \$15 to \$25, the sums aggregating many thousands of dollars. The fraud was perpetrated under the name of a league of women the alleged objects of which are woman suffrage, national temperance, etc. Owing to the similarity of the name with that of a well-known organization, the work of securing victims was easy.

Advertisements were published here early in June for "local secretaries" to whom a salary of \$600 yearly was offered. Those who answered were the recipients of glowing letters and finally received checks for \$25 to pay the expense of a trip to Detroit. The intending secretary was warned that reduced rates of fare could be secured by sending \$15 to an alleged passenger agent in Cleveland within three days. The checks were hurriedly cashed in almost every instance and came back protested. The seeker of employment therefore was minus \$15 in good money, which presumably fell into the hands of the swindlers in Cleveland.

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